

As stated above, Applicant hereby elects Group I and Species A for the purposes of examination. Applicant's election, however, is made with traverse since it is believed that the restriction requirement is improper.

In the Office Action, it is asserted that the claims belonging to Groups II and I are related by "combination and subcombination" and "lack unity due to the fact that the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination because of the omission of the separate retarder/images details." Therefore, the Office Action states that the groups are not so linked to form a "single inventive concept" under PCT Rule 13.1. Applicant respectfully traverses.

All of the claims identified as belonging to Group I and II depend from claim 1. Claim 1, which is the only independent claim pending in the present application, clearly demonstrates the existence of a "single inventive concept" within the meaning of PCT Rule 13.1. Indeed, the Office Action states that "[c]laim 1 will be examined along with any one of the elected Groups I and II." Therefore, the assertion that the claims lack a "single inventive concept" is unfounded given that all of the claims of Groups I and II require the particulars of claim 1 in view of the dependency of the claims.

A "single inventive concept" can also be viewed to exist in relation to an optical component comprising, for example, optical information content and the corresponding system to render the optical information content visible. In the present application, unity of invention exists since these elements are claimed separately which are adapted for one another in such a way that they interact. This is similar to adapted corresponding elements such as, for example, a lock and a corresponding key or a gun and

ammunition thereof. By way of illustration, U.S. 6,457,337 demonstrates a key, a lock and a corresponding key and lock system.

In the context of the present application, the common inventive concept to Groups I and II can be seen from, for example, claims 2 and 9. In other words, an optical component according to claim 2 is adapted and can be used with the system of claim 9. For this additional reason, Applicant submits that a “single inventive concept” exists with respect to the claims of the present application.

Moreover, Applicant traverses the Examiner’s conclusion that an election of species is required for this case. For example, with respect to the elected species A (images contained in “alternate areas”), all claims can be read on this species. For instance, the “successive strips” feature of claim 5 is just an exemplary embodiment of the “alternate areas” of claim 4.

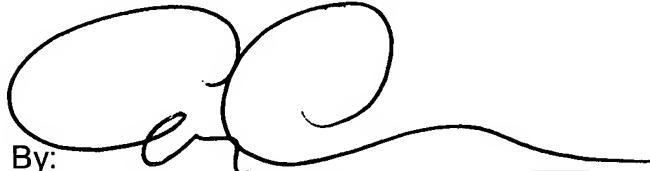
### **CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the restriction and election of species requirements and examine all of the claims pending in the present application.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, the Office is authorized to charge any such fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 3, 2005